

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 – Expedited Procedure

Serial No.: 10/059,697

Examiner: Sargon N. Nano

4 (Original). The method of claim 3 wherein:

receiving the IGMP Membership Report message includes receiving an IGMP Membership Report message; and
the IGMP Membership Report message requests membership in a particular multicast group for receiving said designated multicast information.

5 (Original). The method of claim 4 wherein preparing the negative acknowledgment message includes specifying supplemental membership action information in an additional cause information field of the IGMP message.

6 (Original). The method of claim 3 wherein:

receiving the IGMP Membership Report message includes receiving an IGMP Leave Group message; and
the IGMP Leave Group message requests removal from a particular multicast group receiving said designated multicast information.

7 (Original). The method of claim 6 wherein preparing the negative acknowledgment message includes specifying supplemental membership action information in an additional cause information field of the IGMP message.

8 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein:

determining the membership action includes confirming an ability to implement the request for altering the present membership status; and
preparing the membership acknowledge message includes preparing an affirmative acknowledge message.

9 (Original). The method of claim 8 wherein preparing the affirmative acknowledge message includes:

specifying an acknowledgement indicator in a message type field of an IGMP message;
specifying a multicast group identifier associated with the particular multicast group in a multicast group identifier field of the IGMP message; and

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specifying an affirmative acknowledgement indicator in an acknowledgment type field of the IGMP message, the affirmative acknowledgement indicator designates the ability to implement the request for altering the present membership status.

10 (Original). The method of claim 9 wherein:

receiving the IGMP Membership Report message includes receiving an IGMP Leave Group message; and
the IGMP Leave Group message requests removal from a particular multicast group receiving said designated multicast information.

11 (Original). The method of claim 9 wherein:

receiving the IGMP Membership Report message includes receiving an IGMP Membership Report message; and
the IGMP Membership Report message requests membership in a particular multicast group for receiving said designated multicast information.

12 (Original). A method for facilitating acknowledgment of a request for altering a multicast group membership status, comprising:

receiving an Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP) Membership Report message, wherein the IGMP Membership Report message is transmitted from a requesting system and requests membership in a particular multicast group for receiving designated multicast information;

confirming an ability to implement membership of the requesting system in the particular multicast group;

preparing a first affirmative acknowledge message after confirming the ability to implement membership of the requesting system in the particular multicast group, wherein preparing the first affirmative acknowledge message includes:

specifying acknowledge message in a type field of a first IGMP message;
specifying an identifier of the particular multicast group in a multicast group identifier field of the first IGMP message; and
specifying an affirmative acknowledgement in an acknowledgment type field of the first IGMP message, the affirmative acknowledgement designating the

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ability to implement membership of the requesting system in the particular multicast group;

transmitting the first affirmative acknowledge message for reception by the requesting system;

receiving an IGMP Leave Group message from the requesting system after transmitting the first affirmative acknowledge message, wherein the IGMP Leave Group message requests removal of the requesting system from the particular multicast group;

confirming an ability to implement removal of the requesting system from the particular multicast group; and

preparing a second affirmative acknowledge message after confirming the ability to implement removal of the requesting system from the particular multicast group, wherein preparing the second affirmative acknowledge message includes:

- specifying acknowledge message in a type field of a first IGMP message;
- specifying an identifier of the particular multicast group in a multicast group identifier field of the first IGMP message; and
- specifying an affirmative acknowledgement in an acknowledgment type field of the first IGMP message, the affirmative acknowledgement designating the ability to implement removal of the requesting system from the particular multicast group.

13 (Original). A data processor program product for facilitating acknowledgment of a request for altering a multicast group membership status, comprising:

a data processor program processable by a data processor;

an apparatus from which the data processor program is accessible by the data processor;